

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: February 20, 2001

Place: Room 118

Convened: 10:09 AM **Recessed:** **Reconvened:** **Adjourned:** 11:22 AM

Present: Senators Gaskill-CH, Sexton-VC, Black-RM, Fink, Greiner
Representatives Drake-CH, Kettering-VC, Mertz-RM, Baudler, Eddie, Hahn,
May, Quirk, Schrader

Absent: Black-RM

Co-Chairman Jack Drake called the meeting to order in Room 118, February 20, 2001, at 10:09 a.m.

The roll was called and all members were present. Senator Gaskill moved to approve the minutes as distributed.

Representative Drake introduced Mr. Martin Braster, Project Coordinator, Chariton Valley RC & D, to provide an update on the biomass project. Mr. John Sellers, Field Coordinator, introduced Mr. Doug Goblen and Mr. Bill Nye. The provided literature and reported on how the project was progressing with Alliant Energy on using biomass as an alternative energy for generating electricity. Questions and discussion followed the presentation.

Representative Drake introduced Mr. Ron Mark, Summerset Vineyards to discuss the opportunities for an Iowa Grape industry. Mr. Mark then introduced Mr. Dale Buettner from the Windy Ridge Vineyard in Anthon, Iowa, and Mr. Paul Tabor from Dubuque, Iowa to help with the slide presentation. Mr. Mark said he has to buy grapes and juice from out side of Iowa, and that there are people interested in growing grapes in Iowa but need help to know what varieties to plant and how to spray. The presenter asked the state to consider funding a viticulturist and suggested \$0.10 form the \$1.75 a gallon tax to support the development of the industry. He also explained how the wine industry would help the tourist industry and economic growth of Iowa. Questions and discussion followed.

February 21 & 22 meetings have been cancelled.

Senator Fink moved to arise at 11:22 a.m.

Shirley Drake, Secretary